A
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OF
NEVIS, &c.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

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Of the ISLAND of

NEVIS;

With an ACCOUNT of Its

PRINCIPAL DISEASES.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED, SOME

SENTIMENTS on REVIEWERS;

PARTICULARLY THE

MEDICAL of the CRITICAL REVIEW.

For AUGUST 1775.

Rymer (J.)
R.

LONDON:

Printed for T. EVANS, No. 54. Pater-noster Row.

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DEDICATION

TO THE HONOURABLE

JOHN RICHARDSON HERBERT,

PRESIDENT OF NEVIS.

SIR,

BEing well aſſured that *every thing* concerning the Iſland of NEVIS, which *may be* of uſe to individuals, will very readily receive your approbation, I have taken the liberty to place the following pages under the protection of your name.

It would be both *unjuſt* and *unfaſhionable*, and, conſequently *impolite*, not to take notice of thoſe good qualities you poſſeſs: benevolent, hoſpitable, politely free and affable, ſenſible, a lover of truth, a friend to juſtice, a foe to all enemies of the Britiſh *glorious* laws of liberty and *happy* conſtitution, you impartially diſcharge the buſineſs of your diſtinguiſhed

title

title with that eaſy grace and pleaſing action naturally annexed to that *agreeable* deportment you ſo juſtly *might* boaſt of.

That you may long enjoy good health and a ſound conſtitution; that the happineſs of your mind may be *ever* adequate to your affluence; and, that you may ſo act in the future part of life as that your name ſhall be deſerving of applauſive remembrance, when you ſhall be no more; is,

Sir, the candid Wiſh,
Of your humble, and
Very obedient Servant,

JAMES RYMER.

PREFACE.

HOW is all this?—can't be underſtood—eh! not underſtand ſyſtematical common ſenſe! was ever any thing heard to equal it?——impreſſed, perceived, conceived, analyzed-mentally, and then *digeſted*———bearing to *it* the ſmalleſt gradation of analogical ſemblance?

Now, had it been an energetical ſyſtem of ſyſtematically-geometrick ſpherics; and faculty-racking doctrine of proportions ☞ an offuſcated treatiſe of *laberinthical, erebuſical, chaoſetical* HIEROGLYPHICKS ☞ an elaborate, dark, intricate, confuſed, bewildered, dumbfounding, and confounding involution of theological diſcuſſions, diſſertations, ventilations, conſiderations, and inculcations—or even, Sir, any ☞ skull-cracking, brain-beating, puzzling, perplexing, embarraſſing, entangling, ſtupifying, *torpeſying*, *benumbeſying*, Folio, of ſublime, celeſtial, exalted, extatic, enthuſiaſtic, METAPHYSICS, there might have been a ☞ *non ſo che* in favour of it; but—O! dear—it makes me laugh!—that

the

the learned—even the *very* learned! ſhould enter into ſuch a conſpicuous *betrayment* of mental imbecility as to *dultiſhly* confeſs that *no* degree of mental perfection, faculty-*enlightenment*, nor, Sir, ☞ *reaſonable maturity*, could be perceived in ſo ſimple a *production* as ——— ☞ wherein *nothing*-formidable occurs ſave ſimple ſyſtems, nervous ſyſtems, debilities, enervations, powers, energies, and the like: but, to make amends, I hope, the following pages will ſuffer a more methodical, a more ſyſtematical, a more *laudible* aſſayment, and a more critical—not *chemical*, but, Sir, *literary* analyſis, than what a late *Production* was *honoured* with; and ſo I'll proceed to our ſubject, which is nothing more nor leſs than ☞

D E-

DESCRIPTION OF NEVIS.

CHAP. I.

NEVIS is a ſmall Iſland, whoſe horizontal boundary is of an irregular figure, but approaches ſomewhat to *that* of roundneſs. It riſes in moſt parts gradually from the beach upwards, till it terminates on the weſt ſide, in the extremity of an indented cone: ſo that, notwithſtanding ſome triffling exceptions, and to avoid unneceſſary particularity, the whole may be ſaid to be a mountain of a conical figure. When you are in the bay, you will perceive a riſing on the ſouth ſide, and another on the north ſide, of the mountain, alſo of conical figures, but bearing a very ſmall proportion to *it* in bulk.

The view of the ſouth-eaſt ſide is ſuch, by the termination of height, as conveys the idea of a ſaddle.

We ſhall call the whole of the higher land a mountain. This mountain is covered with trees, &c. of different kinds from the top conſiderably downwards: and, I ſuppoſe, the greateſt part of the Iſland was formerly covered with trees of the ſame kind: but now, all the land which is convenient and fit for cultivation has no trees but a few of ſuch as are neceſſary for the planter's uſe.

When the atmoſphere is clear and dry, the whole upper part of the mountain is to be ſeen: but in general, it is otherwiſe, being covered with, or involved in, clouds of congregation fantaſtical.

Here, a conſtant moiſture takes place; for the land is ſo high as to intercept all the vapours hurled in that tract by the general trade winds. Again, the extremities of the trees attract the the cauſe of the ſuſpenſion of the vapours in the atmoſphere, and down they generally fall in ſhowers; ſo that the leeward part of the Iſland may be ſaid to receive more rain than the windward; and, indeed, it ought, being longer and more immediately expoſed to the ardor of the ſun's rays, which ſtrike powerfully on the weſt and ſouth-weſt parts of the Iſland.

There

There are ſeveral guts or channels from the top of the highland downwards, formed by the torrents of rain water running downwards to the ſea; or, are ſome of them of deluvian origin? it matters not—their ſides are covered with trees and ſhrubs, and cultivated ſpots here and there producing ſugar canes, alimentary vegetables, &c.

Being one of the American or Charibbee Iſlands, its chief production is the ſugar cane. An acre of land, when good, generally produces five hogſheads of ſugar, valued at twenty pounds each: and, the whole Iſland is allowed to yield yearly between ſix and ſeven thouſand hogſheads; which is a great quantity when we conſider the ſmallneſs of the Iſland, and the ſurface of it being more or leſs covered with ſtones, ſome large fixed and immoveable, others ſmall, unconnected and eaſily transferable. Again, ſome ſpots are altogether barren, whoſe ſurfaces ſeem to have undergone the operation of calcination, yet even thoſe, in moſt places, produce ſhrubs, &c. and appear always green: ſo that, taking in planters dwelling houſes, their different works, &c. together with the negro huts ſituated in cluſters at ſome little diſtance from the maſters abode, the

proſpect of the Iſland is altogether pleaſing and agreeable, being variegated with trees and ſhrubs and fields of ſugar canes, whoſe ſeveral never ceaſing vegetations confirm the conſtant ſpring.

It may be mentioned, becauſe not univerſally known, that the rum diſtilled from the molaſſes, ſupports the expences of reparation, feeding and cloathing of negrees, &c. ſo that the money got by the ſale of the ſugar, is conſidered as real gain.

Planters rear their own ſtock, as horſes, cows, ſheep, goats, turkies, geeſe, ducks, cocks, hens, &c. and have ſupplies from the continent of America. Mules and camels they have from Africa; and of the former, ſome are produced in the Iſland by jack-aſſes from England and mares from America.

Nevis is well provided with freſh water; there are ſprings in many places: but there are ſome eſtates which are ſupplied with rain water only. The water is received and contained in ciſterns, which being conſiderably under the common ſurface, and having arched roofs, the contained water is very cool. They alſo improve it by allowing it to paſs thro' a filtering ſtone into a jar

made

made on purpoſe, where the filtrated water becomes very pure and cool.

In the mountain of Nevis there are many land crabs.

When the ſpawning month comes, they go down to the Sea in great numbers, and having there depoſited their ſpawn, &c, they return to the mountain. Being good food the planters take the opportunity of this their annual voyage to ſeize upon them. Of thoſe there are alſo many in low ground towards the beach. They live under the ſurface, and there habitations are like thoſe of Rabbits; they generally come out of their holes about ſun-ſet: I have ſeen ſome hundreds of them; and when you approach, they will run with amazing velocity, and dive into their holes.

CHAP. II.

WITH regard to the ſenſible qualities and temperature of the atmoſphere there is a wide difference from what generally occurs in England.

England. It commonly preſerves the medium of moiſture and dryneſs; but borders more on the latter than the former: and here, on board ſhip, little or no dew falls. Fogs are extremely rare; heavy and frequent ſhowers of rain take place; real and general calms very ſeldom occur; and when they do, they are not of long duration, and generally happen in the mornings and evenings, particularly in all bays ſituated to leeward. Moſt wiſely ordered; for was it otherwiſe, animal life would be loathſome and of ſhort duration.

The general wind and rain, very much concur in abating the degree of heat and in rendering the temperature of the air very bearable; nay, agreeable: alſo the ſky is commonly variegated with clouds, which are of two kinds, with regard to motion, ſituation, and appearance. The higher clouds ſeem to have little or no motion; but, inſenſibly alter their figures and ſituations, repreſenting ſome of the moſt finiſhed and maſterly touches of artificial ſhading; or rather, I ſhould have ſaid, the latter bear but a faint and imperfect ſemblance of the original: hence they appear delightful.

The

The lower clouds again, move with regularity, and often, in proportion to the force of the propelling cauſe, with great velocity; and, are large detached bodies of congregated vapour of a leaden, or otherwiſe, hew. When theſe come in the tract of the mountain, they are interrupted and often fall in ſhowers: they form a watery awning, and contribute in diminiſhing the ardour of the ſun's rays. Theſe are more particularly ſituated, in appearance, towards the horizon, where they are collected in extenſion vaſt, from eaſt to weſt on either ſide.

It is very rare to ſee the ſky totally unclouded; and, I believe it never happens.

In the months of Auguſt and September, the weather is not ſo uniform: for, in theſe months, they are ſubject to hurricanes and tempeſts, when all the elements ſeem to be engaged in a general and moſt dreadful war; horrific guſts of wind, thunder and lightning, deluges of rain, and earthquakes. Now, a truce; ceſſation of devaſtation; and, general calm prevail: but, ſullen, threatning, and brooding further horror and fell rage. Anon, the fury of nature is renewed, with unrelenting violence and corroborated vi-

gour

gour—A dread and awful ſcene of general ruin and black deſpair to man!

By ſuch hurricanes the planter's pleaſing hopes of ſpeedy and happy independance are often thwarted and overturned. Common loſſes to individuals frequently amount to ſome thouſand pounds ſterling. The houſes being of wood, and commonly not of ſufficient ſtrength to withſtand the violence of the wind; which, when it finds a paſſage, tears and ſcatters diſſolution to all quarters on man and beaſt. The ſugar cane alſo ſuffers, as well as trees, &c. which are torn up by the roots, and ſcattered abroad.

Although they are ſubject to hurricanes in theſe months, by their taking place in ſome part of that portion of the year, yet they ſeldom occur oftener than once in five or ſix years:—but as they do not return with regularity, ſo we cannot on this head pretend to give any deciſive information.

When the trade winds do not obſerve regularity, and at the time of the greateſt heats, they are agreeably refreſhed in the larger Iſlands of America, with the land and ſea breezes. The former commonly blows from the centre to all

parts

parts of the circumference; but, the ſmaller Iſlands, which are thoſe fartheſt from the continent, eaſtward, have generally the trade winds throughout the year; ſo that they are cooler and more healthy. Indeed the Weſt Indies is much more agreeable and healthy than is commonly imagined. It is now the 21ſt of May, and the ſun's declination greater than the latitude of the place, and I am fagging out this Chapter on board, and find it as cool and agreeable as I could reaſonably wiſh.

CHAP. III.

THE diſeaſes of the Iſland of Nevis are nearly the ſame as occur in England, &c. as northern parts. It is a miſtaken notion to look upon them in any other general light: it only tends to deceive medical men in their apprehenſions and conceptions of the ſubject; and is of particular injury to the young practitioner who adventures into ſuch parts of the world to

acquire wealth by doing good: it alſo deters many men from going to the Weſt Indies, who might better their ſituations, by being of particular uſe to the Inhabitants in their ſeveral profeſſions, whether mechanic, &c. The hiſtories of diſeaſes in ſome of the Charibbean Iſlands, as delivered by men of judgment and candour, are ſuch as even terrify imagination, and conſtitute a cauſe of conſtant unhappineſs and ſad anxiety to many who go into thoſe parts.

If the phyſician or ſurgeon who goes to the American Iſlands, in order to act in his profeſſion, has ſtudied medicine methodically in what relates to the natural theory, and reaſonable practice of medicine, and has acquired a complete knowledge in the diſtinction and cure of diſeaſes, he will never be at a loſs in any morbid caſe which may occur: for, every morbid affection of the human body, in thoſe parts, will be referable to ſome medical or pathological law in which he is already ſkilled: but, notwithſtanding all his knowledge from ſtudy, he will find it neceſſary to have acquired ſkill in diſeaſes by practice and experience previous to his going to the Weſt Indies: and, I would adviſe he

might

might carry with him all the practical works of pathological authors, particularly relating to the diſeaſes of this country—longitude 63 weſt—as well as to thoſe of other warm climates; and, if the authors have practiſed in ſuch parts themſelves, he will reap the more advantage from their works. There is always ſomething advantageous and uſeful to be learnt by reading a book, whether judiciouſly or injudiciouſly compoſed, by a reader who is ſecured from being drawn into error by previous methodical ſtudy and ſyſtematical ground-work. However, you are not tacitly to do as others have done, unleſs you find it reaſonable and neceſſary, according to the circumſtances of the particular caſe you may have to treat.

CHAP. IV.

THE diſeaſes of the human body are,

1. Univerſal diſeaſes of the ſanguiferous ſyſtem.

2. Uni-

2. Univerſal diſeaſes of the ſanguiferous ſyſtem, with local affection.

3. Univerſal diſeaſes of the muſcular ſyſtem.

4 Local diſeaſes of the muſcular ſyſtem.

5. Univerſal diſeaſes of the cellular membrane ☞ ſeated therein.

6. Local diſeaſes of the cellular membrane.

7. General affections of the glandular ſyſtem —— attending to the analogical arrangement of glands.

8. Local diſeaſes of the glandular ſyſtem.

9. Univerſal diſeaſes of the inteſtinal canal, from the throat to the anus.

10. Local diſeaſes of the inteſtinal canal.

11. &c.

All theſe for the moſt part, are referable to general and local affections of the nervous ſyſtem.

Now, you may think of this doctrine what you pleaſe. My opinion of the matter is, It is the ſimpleſt, the moſt natural; and hence, the trueſt and moſt rational of any hitherto advanced.

Again, you may adopt it if you pleaſe; and if not, the conſequence is, you reject it either wholly, partially; or, &c. In a former work, I have given

given ſome hints reſpecting it: I have alſo, ☞ you ſee! done it in *this*; and, I ſhall *per certo*, do ſo in every collection of thoughts I may hereafter publiſh on the ſubject.

All the material receptacles of the nervous power, are included in the words, NERVOUS SYSTEM. The Heart, Arteries and Veins are included in the words SANGUIFEROUS SYSTEM: therefore, you will know what I mean, when I ſhall have occaſion to uſe theſe phraſes.

Again, there is a ſyſtem which I ſhall be inclined to call the general hydraulic ſyſtem; there is alſo the muſcular ſyſtem; and, the ſyſtem of ſyſtems, which, by the bye, takes in the whole Animal Syſtem.

CHAP. V.

AS *this* and the *preceding*, are merely chapters of ſuperficial hints, I ſhould lay myſelf notoriouſly in the tract of keen cenſure if I did not go on thus.

Univerſal diſeaſes of the ſanguiferous ſyſtem, may be divided into,

1. Uni-

1. Univerſal fever.

2. Univerſal fever, with local affection.

Univerſal fever again may be divided into,

1. Continued fever.

2. Intermittent fever.

Fevers continued, are

1. Simple inflammatory fever.

2. Simple inflammatory fever, with local affection.

3. Nervous fever.

Intermittent fevers, are

1. Quotidian.

2. Tertian.

3. Quartan.

Now theſe are all real diſeaſes, and this doctrine of them totally void of all manner of ſuperſtition. They have taken various names from different ſymptoms, and ſo multiplied and dexterouſly entangled, that I pronounce the proceeding abſurd, and explode it as tending to embaraſſment and confuſion.

With regard to the arrangement and diſtinction of the diſeaſes belonging to other heads, I wave the buſineſs for the preſent. If the general ſcheme, as here laid down, meets with any

degree

degree of civil approbation, I may be induced to enter upon the ſubject more ſpiritedly when I ſhall find it neceſſary to engage in the undertaking.

CHAP. VI.

THE common diſeaſes of Nevis are,

1. Fevers continued and intermittent.
2. Affections of the ſtomach and inteſtines.
3. Affections of the liver.
4. Spaſmodical diſeaſes.

Continued fevers are, Simple inflammatory fever; and do. with local affection; as,

1. Pleuriſy and peripneumony. ☞ Is not the former included in the latter?
2. Inflammation of the brain.
3. Nervous or putrid fever.
4. Bilious fever, which takes its name from a chief ſymptom, by way of diſtinction.

Intermittent fevers are in general tertians; ſometimes quartans.

A late

A late ingenious writer on the diſeaſes of the Weſt Indies, ſays, he excludes from his catalogue all real and inflammatory diſeaſes; and as a reaſon for his doing ſo, ſays, they *ſeldom* occur. Alſo many pathological writers have entertained the ſame opinion. Now, I harbour a different notion of the matter, and do advance—a a year never paſſes in which they have no real inflammatory diſeaſes. ☞ Here you muſt recollect I confine myſelf to Nevis. What I ſay on the ſubject only alludes to what happens in other Iſlands of America, by Nevis being one of them.

Cruſta inflammatoria—the characteriſtic of inflammation, is here frequently met with. Dr. Nisbet, a judicious and methodically bred phyſician at Nevis, and a polite and worthy man, told me he meets with pleuriſies and peripneumonies very often in his practice, which require the ſame treatment as in cold climates: he bleeds largely, and generally finds the blood ſizey; he likewiſe uſes large bliſters with ſucceſs; and, in ſhort, uſes the ſame method of cure as he would in England in parallel caſes.

The ſimple inflammatory fever alſo occurs; and,

and, is generally removed by bleeding, cooling ſudorifics, dilution, and other gentle means of diminiſhing the encreaſed power of motion.

Now, although there may appear ſome reaſon for doubt, and the entertainment of a different opinion; yet, we muſt lay aſide all hypotheſis, when induction from experience overthrows it.

Again, I would adviſe caution in the uſe of the lancet, if there be any ſtrong reaſon to doubt whether the caſe you may meet with be really inflammatory. If it happens at that ſeaſon of the year, when other very different diſeaſes prevail, and are actually in being, I think it might be erring on the ſafe ſide *not* to take away too much blood at firſt, till you are convinced by the appearance of the blood that the diſeaſe is actually inflammatory, ☞ eſpecially if the remote cauſes favour your doubt.

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CHAP. VII.

THE nervous fever has different names from different capital ſymptoms and differences in the degrees of affection; ſuch as putrid fever, malignant fever, peſtilential fever, &c. but I chooſe to nominate it ſimply *nervous fever*: ☞ Are not all diſeaſes and morbid affections of the human body either *nervous*, or ſuch effects of natural cauſes as univerſally occur in organiſed maſſes? And may not any clever natural philoſopher, who underſtands anatomy, deliver as rational a doctrine concerning them—nay, I will anſwer for it, it ſhall be leſs connected with prejudice than *that* the moſt reverendful bottom or tie-wig'd phyſician can poſſibly invent.

The nervous ſyſtem is my particular Hobby-Horſe; and I am willing he ſhould be conſulted and referred to in all caſes of an ambiguous emergency which may take place in his empire. He is the Grand Monarch, Sir! of the animal tabernacle; and very little buſineſs can be performed by his ſubjects in the empire without his immediate action: even foreigners from all quarters,

ters cannot exert their abilities, nor execute their commiſſions, unleſs they have previouſly paid their addreſs and homage, either to himſelf or to ſome of his prime miniſters. But notwithſtanding all his diſtinguiſhed powers and accompliſhments, does he not often merit pity and compaſſion? and, is he not frequently beleaguered and oppreſſed, not only by his own ſubjects, in conſequence of inteſtine broils and rebellion, but alſo by nameleſs troops of banditti, ſpreading terror and deſolation in the act of their dread and doleful miſſion? And wherever he goes, is he not liable to be arreſted by the fell conſtables of an horrific tyrant? ☞ Now what does the fellow mean?

In ſhort, the cauſes of all univerſal, as of moſt local diſeaſes, produce their effects by their action on the nervous ſyſtem. ☞ Pray, does this author take in hydraulic eruptions, pneumatic diſtenſions, ſubſtantial contractions, dilatations, expanſions, condenſations, and, ſo forth? Why, I fancy he only alludes to all thoſe phenomena wherein the powers of animation can be concerned. Again, he goes on—what active part of an animal body will perform its function

when

when deprived of its nerve? Will matter abandon *vis inertia* without a cauſe?

This fever ſoon terminates either in the recovery or death of the patient. It ſometimes has a ſlow progreſs. Dr. Nisbet informed me, he had had caſes of nervous fever which laſted upwards of twenty days. The duration and violence of this diſeaſe will be in proportion to the energy of the proximate and remote cauſes, with ſome reference to the circumſtances of conſtitution.

According to particular ſymptoms, this diſeaſe, I ſaid, takes different names, ſuch as, bilious, malignant, yellow, black,—What yellow and black *ſubſtances* are you chattering about? Petechial fever, &c. and the general proximate cauſe only differs in violence and not in its nature. Particular organs may be affected, as the liver ſecreting an over-copious and ſuperabundant——Would not one of theſe words have ſerved?——Quantity of bile, which is not only voided by ſtool and vomiting, but is moreover taken into the maſs of blood, and in the courſe of circulation tinges the ſurface of a yellow hue —hence bilious and yellow fever.

The

The blood alſo, in conſequence of its tendency to putrefaction, is attenuated and diſſolved.—Is *Diſſolution* applicable to fluids?——And the ſolids having loſt their natural tone, vigour, and elaſticity, blood ſometimes is extravaſated in different parts of the ſuperficies, appearing in petechial ſpots, generally local and diſtended, rarely connected and univerſal, of a blackiſh hue—and hence petechial, malignant, and black fever.

In the cure of this diſeaſe, you muſt avoid all large evacuation from the ſanguiferous ſyſtem—that is, you muſt with-hold phlebotomy as you would the dagger; and be extremely cautious in the exhibition of ſudorifics, for the loſs of blood and ſweating induce debility.

In the beginning emetics of tartar, emet. & pulv. ipecacoan. muſt by no means be omitted. If ſpaſm takes place on the ſkin, ſaline mixture in ſmall quantities repeated; or, what may anſwer better, gentle doſes of a ſolution of tartar emetic, may be of great ſervice.

Now, your alone reſource for the recovery of the patient, muſt be centered in antiſeptics—vegetable acids given in the drink, or elixir of vitriol, &c. but, above all, the Peruvian bark muſt

muſt be given in the moſt agreeable form, and in as large quantities as the ſtomach can bear.

If the debility be great, port wine uſed in moderation, ſometimes with the bark, ſometimes alone, and ſometimes mixed with water, ſugar, and nutmeg, as drink, will be of infinite ſervice.

CHAP. VIII.

INtermittent fevers are common at Nevis, and generally put on the tertian type. It is often in the beginning attended with a violent pain in the ſide, which neceſſarily produces a difficulty in reſpiration. Dr. NISBET told me, he is often in this caſe obliged to diminiſh the quantity of blood, altho' ſomewhat repugnant to the uſual doctrine of the method of cure of intermittents.

This fever at Nevis has been known to laſt thirty days: but it is commonly of ſhort duration, and five or ſix paroxyſms ſometimes conclude the ſcene.

Each of the ſtates often continues an hour: ſo that

that the paroxyſm is here of three hours duration.

This fever rages with great violence, ſweeping off multitudes: and a fit or two will reduce the moſt robuſt to a ſtate of perfect debility and enervation. Patients are very often carried off in the hot ſtate, when take place all the ſymptoms of a *burning* fever, delirium, convulſions, &c. and here, the loſs of ſome blood has been of ſervice——but be cautious.

The town of Nevis—Charles Town—compoſed of wooden houſes and huts, being ſituated low, to the leeward of the higher land in the boſom of a bay, calcining in the ſun's ardour, and ſurrounded with marſhy ground, and ſtagnant water, qualified with the loathſome productions of putrefaction, is more liable to this diſeaſe, as well as to many others of a putrid nature, than the country, which is generally healthy and agreeable—indeed, epidemical and contagious diſeaſes are always more common among the multitude: this eſpecially holds good in the Weſt Indies, for the greater number of inhabitants being the vulgar and illiterate, they do not only neglect the removal of remote cauſes, but alſo contribute to

their

their encreaſe, whether by intemperance, a want of attention to neceſſary cleanlineſs, &c. &c. See many authors on the ſubject.

The doctrine of the method of cure of intermittents is the ſame here as in other climates—cold as well as warm. Emetics in the beginning; in the cold ſtate, the means of rouſing the powers of motion; in the hot ſtate, cooling antiſpaſmodical ſudorifics, ſuch as ſaline mixture, tartar emetic, taken internally in ſuch quantities as by producing nauſea to remove ſpaſm from the ſurface, and cauſe a general perſpiration or ſweat.

With regard to aſtringents they have been given even in the ſweating ſtate: and, the grand ſpecific, the Peruvian bark, muſt be given in ſuch quantities, and in ſuch forms, as may beſt agree with the ſtomach; but, as much as is poſſible to be retained, muſt be exhibited in the intervals.

I have not tried it; but, I think bathing in a ſtrong decocton of bark, might be attended with very great ſucceſs and advantage.

In the Weſt Indies, there are different preparations of roots and herbs procured from the mountains, &c. uſed by the negroes and poor people

people often with great advantage. Now, as ſome morbid caſes in particular Iſlands are often very fatal, and will not yeild to methodical cures, I would adviſe the medical man to try every thing which has been known to do good in ſuch caſes. This would not be above his profeſſion, neither would it leſſen his reputation: for, he is but a little philoſopher! who limits his enquiries to a few particulars.

CHAP. IX.

II. *Affections of the Stomach.*
III. *Affections of the Liver.*

WIth regard to the affections of the ſtomach and inteſtines, ☞ I mean the cure—it will depend upon the cauſes of the proximate cauſe. If ſuch affections proceed from what is called, morbid matter, lodged in the ſtomach and inteſtines, it muſt be evacuated by emetics and purgatives.

Cholera morbus——here, natural evacuations muſt be encouraged by the drinking of

tepid ſimple fluids, as warm water; if the reaching, and inclination to ſtool ſtill continue violent, and the matter all evacuated, the energy of the moving power of the diſeaſed parts muſt be diminiſhed, and rendered inſenſible to preternatural irritation, by ſedatives.

Diarrhæa and dyſentery—here alſo *morbid matter* muſt be evacuated by emetics and purgatives, as pulv. ipecac. and ſal. cathart.

When it is evacuated the guts muſt be defended from the action of irritating cauſes, by means of mucilaginous and obtunding medicines and diet, as gum arabic, &c. and ſago is excellent as food; but, ſuch things ſhould be given in ſufficient quantities.

Again, if putrid ſymptoms prevail, the bark will be neceſſary: and, if it operates by ſtool, tinct. thebaic. may be added.

Air is often pent up in the bowels, whether from ſpaſm, &c. cauſing violent pain—here, you uſe antiſpaſmodics, carminatives and opiates ☞ an't opiates antiſpaſmodics? Some have found good effects from the application of cold to the belly, by the ſudden abolition of heat, from the application of clouts dipped in cold water.

Alſo

Alſo in caſes of hardened excrements you uſe warm bath with purgatives and glyſters. In a caſe of fifteen days coſtiveneſs here at Nevis, Caſtor oil, as made in the Weſt Indies, procured a ſtool when all other means had failed.

III. Affections of the Liver, are common in the Weſt Indies in many fevers; but, the Liver is alſo often affected without general diſeaſe. If it be inflamed with an encreaſed ſecretion of bile, bleeding, and cooling purgatives muſt be had recourſe to. If it be tending to ſchirrhus with obſtruction and abſorption of bile into the maſs of blood, emetics, purgatives ſaponaceous, and even ſome mercurial medicines, muſt be uſed internally, with fomentations and warm bath. ☞ See authors on the jaundice.

It is ſaid, that in hot climates there is always an encreaſed ſecretion of bile in conſequence of heat; but, I think if thoſe more particularly ſubject to this complaint, uſed a leſs quantity of ſpiritous liquors, &c. it might be attended with great advantage.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

IV. *Spaſmodical Diſeaſes.*

THE locked jaw is a common affection in the Weſt Indies, and often follows the amputation of extremities, wounds, blows receceived upon the head, and, even a ſlight cut has been followed by this melancholy affection, in which the extenſors of the lower jaw, are violently and involuntarily contracted, ſo that the lower jaw is cloſely confined to the upper: and hence, the mouth cannot be opened.

Now, although other antiſpaſmodics and ſedatives are uſed: yet, the grand ſpecific in this diſeaſe, is opium adminiſtered in ſuch quantities as may not produce dangerous effects, and applied externally in ſolution either by itſelf or with camphire, &c.

If there are teeth in each jaw, amounting to the natural number, and if nothing can be introduced into the mouth—ſome extract the Dentes

In-

Inciſores, or make a perforation for the introduction of a tube, for the ſuction of nouriſhing fluids—provided the ſufferer cannot otherwiſe be nouriſhed, whether by clyſters, &c. and the complaint has been of long duration.

Chap. XI.

IN hot climates animal ſubſtances very ſoon degenerate into corruption by putrefaction: or, in other words, animal ſubſtances ſoon acquire putridity. This is particularly the caſe with all carcaſes; and, even holds good in the animated body in caſes of diſeaſe. In Greenland it does not take place—there, the degree of heat is ſo diminiſhed that a carcaſe will remain unaltered ſix months.

In the Torrid Zone the reverſe occurs: here, the degree of heat is great—although not ſo conſiderable as might be, and I believe is imagined. It ſeldom exceeds 90, and as ſeldom ſinks below 70; yet, it is ſufficient to be looked upon as the

the cauſe of the ſudden diſſolution of animal bodies; by putrefaction, which is ſtill heightened by heat produced in the operation.

From the nature of putrefaction, as a ſimple operation—all natural operations are ſimple—and, its analogy to fermentation, it is alledged that certain particles may be introduced into the ſyſtem—acting as yeſt or other matter endowed with fermenting powers, which produce putrefaction in the particular animal body wherein they have been received. Now thoſe particles are ſuppoſed to have ariſen from morbid bodies, from putrifying carcaſes, from ſtagnant water, and from putrid marſhes frequently to be met with in all warm climates. The ſuppoſition is natural, and I think may be eſteemed a matter of fact by induction from experience.

Ubi morbus, ibi remedium, they ſay is a medical axiom: now, I will not enter upon any diſcuſſion whether it be a medical axiom or not; but, this much is certain, that in all countries liable to putrefaction from the circumſtances of climate, Nature's allwiſe Providence has abundantly ſupplied the animal world with powerful antiſceptics, and the means of obviating all putrid

trid tendencies—Behold the lemon tree, the lime tree—behold the orange tree—and, in ſhort, behold all the acid, ſub-acid, and aſtringent ſubjects of the vegetable empire, able, ready and willing to encounter, fight, conquer, and analyſe into ſalutary—or, at leaſt, into inactive and harmleſs ſtates, all your putrefactive, as well as relaxing enemies.

Again, if you wiſh to live happy, and have a regard for the mental powers—holding an obſtinately juſt abhorrence of the brute ſtate in man, I adviſe you to avoid the drinking of ſtrong liquors, and, without altercation, all *exceſſes*, in venereal pleaſures: for theſe powerfully induce debility of the nervous ſyſtem, and of conſequence effeminate enervation of the whole fabric, rendering you liable to, and ſuſceptible of, the remote cauſes of nervous fever, &c. and altogether unable to reſiſt and withſtand and ſurvive the rage of diſeaſe.

If heating wines and ſtrong liquors be neceſſary to counteract the effects of cold in northern climates, by rouſing the powers of life, can it be ſuppoſed they will counteract the effects of heat in the Torrid Zone from the ſame principle?

ple? *One* individual thing cannot be ſuppoſed to produce different and oppoſite effects at one and the ſame time—the hypotheſis would be ſelf-evidently erroneous: wherefore, in warm climates, ſuch quantities of the above fluids as heat and induce temporary fever, muſt be inflexibly avoided: for the immoderate uſe of them is attended with conſequence very fatal to mankind ——waving all moral conſiderations, and *their* very lugubrious effects on the powers of the ſoul.

Some Europeans who adventure into thoſe parts—but here I would exclude the French and Spaniards; for reſpecting this vice, they are a ſober, temperate and philoſophic people—to their ſhame be it ſpoken, are much addicted to downright drunkenneſs and irrational actions, committing ſuch nefarious deeds as cauſe the philoſopher to bluſh when he conſiders they are performed by rational beings, his fellow creatures.

If there was a moſt ſtrict prohibition of the *immoderate* uſe of all ſpirituous and inebriating fluids, and alſo a penalty, proportioned to circumſtances, on each ſubject who plunges into intoxication and the exilement of his mental faculties by carouſement, the reſulting advantages

to

to univerſal ſociety would be many and invaluable.

Now, with regard to wines, ſpirits, &c. &c. I would adviſe they might be uſed internally, *only* in caſes of medical neceſſity from morbid affection, the fatigue of toil and labour, and ſuch like circumſtances; for, in what concerns every other circumſtance, I ſwear I would not give ☞ ——— for all the wine and ſpirits in the univerſe.

CHAP. XII.

OUR Steward being on ſhore at Nevis and very thirſty, drank a quart of what is here called *Cool-drink*. He came on board and went to bed—ſlept till about two in the morning, when he awoke with a violent griping and inclination to vomit. About an hour after he was ſeized with an exceſſive purging and vomiting. I knew nothing of this until about ſeven in the morning, when he applied and informed me of what had happened to him. He had now, be-

ſides the purging, a nauſea—for the vomiting had ceaſed—full and quick pulſe, head-ach, thirſt, with pains in different parts of the body: in ſhort, a violent fever prevailed. He had drank freely of punch, &c. for ſome days before, and being a man of a robuſt and full habit, I took away fourteen ounces of blood from the arm, and gave him a puke of tartar emet. & pulv. ipecac. which operated very well, and brought off a quantity of bile. He was eaſy for two hours; at the end of which time he was ſeized with great debility, univerſal tremor, paleneſs all over the ſurface, ſkin wrinkled in an aſtoniſhing degree, and without moiſture, tongue dry, great thirſt, his pulſe could hardly be felt, and he was moreover dilirious—ſo that I could not learn how he felt inwardly, but he ſeemed to be in great agony, with oppreſſive reſpiration and anxiety. To rouſe the powers of the ſyſtem, I found it neceſſary to give ſome ſtimulating medicines: and, as he was very thirſty, mixed ſome port wine with water for his drink. In this ſtate he remained about ten minutes, when a copious ſweat took place and relieved him; but the pulſe was ſtill weak, and ſomewhat frequent, with cold-

neſs

neſs of the extreme parts. He fell aſleep, and I left him in bed. An hour had elapſed, when I was again called. He had got out of the bed, and as ſoon as he ſaw me, ſaid he was a dead man, and that he had loſt his legs——complained grievouſly, and talked incoherently; his pulſe was weak, yet he was drenched in ſweat, and had great thirſt. I found the muſcles of his thighs and legs moſt violently contracted, with ſpaſm alſo of many other muſcles. I immediately made him ſwallow one grain of opium in a ſcruple of confect. cardiac. and cauſed his thighs and legs to be well rubbed with a ſolution of camphire in ſpirit of wine. He ſoon became eaſier, and I had him put to bed. He fell aſleep, and ſlept about an hour and a half, when he was again attacked with ſpaſm as before. The weather being hot, and laying in a cloſe place, he begged of me to allow him to get out of bed. I did ſo; and, in helping him along to a chair in the cabbin, he fainted away, and fell from my hold ſouſe upon the deck—for he was a ſtout, luſty, heavy man, and there was no body preſent but myſelf and the boy Jack. We got him up and placed him in a chair——he came to himſelf,

and

and complained as much as ever of the—*cramp*, as he called it——and ſo may you. His pulſe was very weak; he had a cold ſweat, with cold extremities, and ſhrivelled ſkin; he looked like a dead man, and I thought he would not ſurvive it. I gave him ten grains of camphire in a bolus of confect. cardiac. and rubbed his legs and thighs as before, put him again to bed, and he was ſoon much better. He was ſeized a third time, nearly in the ſame manner, altho' not ſo violently, and I plied him with antiſpaſmodics, outwardly and inwardly, rubbed his legs and thighs once or twice with lemon juice——this has done ſervice in the Weſt Indies in ſuch caſes——gave him ſaline mixture during the night, with camphire in it, and next morning he was recovered, but much debilitated, and only complained of ſtiffneſs and laſſitude in the muſcles which had ſuffered by contraction.

The drink which this man ſwallowed ſo greedily the night on which he was taken ill, I am told is made by fermenting a decoction of ſnake-root and ſome other vegetable ſubſtances of a a purgative quality. The poor people at Nevis drink

drink about half a pint of it at a time as a cooling purge, as they term it; and alledge it produces bad effects if drank in too great a quantity.

Now, the above caſe having ſomething uncommon in it, and but rarely occuring, I fancy I need advance nothing further as a reaſon why I have here inſerted it.

Some

drink about half a pint of it at a time as a cool-
ing purge, as they term it; and alledge it pro-
duces bad effects if drank in too great a quantity.

Now, the above cafe having fomething uncom-
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need adv[illegible]nce nothing further as a reafon why I
have here inferred it.

Some

Some SENTIMENTS on REVIEWERS, particularly the *Medical* of the CRITICAL REVIEW for Auguſt 1775.

CHAP. I.

Whoſo diggeth a pit ſhall fall therein: and he that rolleth a ſtone, it will return upon him.

PROVERBS.

ALL Men who read, are reviewers: every individual having the freedom of thought ☞ who can hinder him from it—thinks for himſelf, and often rejects the opinions of others. In this place it may be aſked, why is a particular ſet of men pointed out for univerſal criticiſm? ☞ That the puplic may not be impoſed upon by erroneous doctrine. From what motives do *ſuch* univerſal geniuſes apply to criticiſm and

and the detection of error?—Sir!—'tis not becoming to aſk ſuch a queſtion—it would be unfair to give ſatisfaction; yet, your aſſertion, ☞ that the attraction of their fingers for gold is often more powerful than the attraction of their minds for reaſon, ☞ *which* is the cauſe *why* the line of direction of *juſtice* ſo frequently falls without the baſe of *common ſenſe*, I think, is without foundation: ☞ moreover, I would rather this inſtant ſhove my manuſcript into the *blaze* of the galley-fire than tip—Sir—a guinea for a reading-paſs.

When men in their different ſpheres of action, keep within their own *periphery*, and proceed juſtly and reaſonably and *manly*, there is not a fellow on the ſurface of *Terra* more readily diſpoſed to give applauſe than myſelf: but, when they act *otherwiſe*, I would moſt certainly endeavour to perſwade *them* to follow a more laudable and more honourable proceeding: and, now I affirm it, ☞ *they* may have liberty and free ſcope, according to their ſeveral abilities, to anatomize, criticize, and analyſe this little *piece*, into as many literary homogeneous and heterogeneous atoms, as the powers of their critical diviſion,

viſion, and *keen* imagination! can poſſibly multiply and deviſe—and ſo I'll go on like a *hero* to

CHAP. II.

Therefore ſhall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

PROVERBS.

THE ſubject of which is—I have made a better dinner to-day than I have done for nine days paſt; latitude 17 north, longitude 63 weſt.

Our ſteward dropt his fiſh-pots laſt night; they were hauled up this morning, and found to contain, doctors, old-wives, coblers, welſh-men, yellow bellies, balla hoos, parrot fiſh, and balloch-biters.

We ordered a fowl to be forthwith roaſted; ſent *Ben* a ſhore for a pound of ſalt butter, ☞ almoſt 90 by Farenheit—ſteward came off—brought the butter, it was almoſt fluid; together

with ſallad and *ſouring* from one of the planter's as a preſent.

At two o'clock ſat down to dinner—it conſiſted of various fiſh, a piece of ſalt beef, a fowl, &c. eat heartily, drank a pint of porter, did not touch the ſalt beef, nor halloch-biters; afterwards ſmoaked my pipe, and drank a glaſs of excellent ſherbet.

CHAP. III.

IN human life, in human ſociety, & poliſhed ſociety, there are many characters, many geniuſes, Sir,—ſtrangely odd and fantaſtically unaccountable geniuſes: ſome natural; ſome, unnatural ☞ *they* are all *natural*: *ſome* ſway the ſcepter of corruption and *inſolence*! uncheckt; *ſome* are devoted to virtue, others to vice: *ſome* hold the medium and embrace *either* as occaſion offers.

With regard to geniuſes variouſly bent to various *particulars*, in ſcience and literature, I will only

only obſerve *they* are the nouriſhers, the ſupporters, the inſtigators, the diſcoverers of *all* utility, purity, impurity and non-utility in human knowledge: for, if the *concordance* of the faculties of the minds of all men, *was* univerſal with regard to the *ſame* thing, ſcience would lag, would dwindle into non-entity, and all knowledge be ſoon engulfed in horrid chaos and untraceable obſcurity: and, if Reviewers—the *oracles* of *literature univerſal!* were to applaud this ſimple doctrine, and ſay—Rymer's notion of the matter is juſt and agreeable to our *own*, I would pronounce my conjecture of their criticiſm *baſeleſs*, and the *value* of their labor *unworthy* of an old, fuſty, Spaniſh, fig.

CHAP. IV.

Behold, I will pour out my ſpirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. PROVERBS.

IN December *laſt*, I publiſhed a book entitled. "Introduction to the Study of Pathology, "on

"on a natural plan." In the ſame month I ſailed from England for the Iſland of Nevis, where I *was* upwards of five months. I have been arrived about ten days in England. As ſoon as I got to London, I went to the *proper place*, and examined the Reviews of every month ſince the publication of my book, and found it had not publickly undergone the teſt of cenſure.

This morning (being Sept. the 5th,) I was met by a friend in a coffee-houſe, who ſaid. Damn it, Rymer! have you ſeen how they have abuſed you, in the Critical Review for Auguſt? No! I replied, but I ſhall immediately, ☞ went and bought the Critical Review for Auguſt 1775; *where*, in the *Monthly Catalogue*, and under the word *Medical*, I found:

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35. *Introduction to the Study of Pathology, on a natural Plan: containing an Eſſay on Fevers*, &c. *By* James Rymer. 8*vo*. 3*s*. *ſewed*. Donaldſon.

This author informs us, that he has given particular attention to the preſent ſtate of medical knowledge, and that his inquiry has taken place, 'ſince the arrival of his mind at no contemptible degree of reaſonable maturity.' We heartily congratulate him on this enlightened ſtate of his underſtanding; and we do it the rather, as we had read almoſt half the treatiſe without being convinced of ſuch a fact, when we came to the above cited paſſage. We wiſh the treatiſe likewiſe poſſeſſed any degree of *reaſonable maturity*,

as

as that would be the ſtrongeſt evidence in favour of the author's aſſertion; but in ſearch of this criterion, we have peruſed not only the half, but the whole of the production, to no purpoſe: unleſs indeed it ſhould be with reſpect to a piece of information, of which we muſt confeſs we were ignorant, that the method of curing intermittent fevers is 'a ſubject in its nature really *ſacred* and *divine*; ſeeing it implies the *holy* knowledge of deſtroying or removing the bodily afflictions of human life.' If the treatiſe be defective in point of obſervation, however, it is ſufficiently redundant in words; of which the following tautological paſſages may ſerve as examples. 'Hence the functions and nervous ſyſtem are invigorated, ſtrengthened, and totally deprived of debility.—The enervated energies of the powers—enervates the energy of the nervous ſyſtem.'

Now James Rymer ſits down *coolly*, and with even a great degree of pleaſure, to thank the *medical* Rewiewer for his indulgence in having delayed the criticiſm of his book till his arrival in England: more particularly, and *the rather!* becauſe, he has now a ſmall work in the preſs, to which he means to affix his own obſervations on their diſſection of his book.

Les voici!

1*ſtly*, They begin with a quotation, ſuch as a *ſilly* boy might adduce

2*dly*, They congratulate me *on* the poſſeſſion of a mental quality; ☞ ſuch a quality as they ſeem particularly to ſtand in need of.

3*dly*, They withdraw this congratulation.

4*thly*,

4*thly*, They wiſh the *Treatiſe* poſſeſſed a certain quality, *which*, they aſſert, *it has not*. ☞ *This* I ſuppoſe, was the *reſult* of a view of the figure of the book in perſpective, becauſe,

5*thly*, They tell us they were (it *muſt* have been *afterwards*) at the trouble of peruſing not only the *half*, but, Sir, the *whole* of the *Production*! and were at laſt convinced *it had not* that, "certain quality."

6*thly*, I am pleaſed to find *they* acknowledge a received *piece* of *information*.

7*thly*, They obſerve, if it be defective in one *point*, ☞ mathematical ſeverity, Sir, it is alſo defective in another *point*: and to imbelliſh and ſtrengthen their *laſt* aſſertion—

8*thly*, They have wiſely aſſembled in the field of *Tautological battle*, a mighty troop of functions, nervous ſyſtems, powers, energies, and *debility*?

I muſt be candid enough to own, ☞ was I the author of the above criticiſm on *my* book, I would in compliance with *his prudence*, conceal my name; ☞ *the rather*, becauſe his ſceptical remarks are ſo denſe, ſo *latent*, ſo void of *inactivity*, that it would be entering into the *puerile* ſtate to allow *them* the ſmalleſt degree of expanſive

panſive ſtimulus: hence, I avoid, ☞ "*accri-moneous*" treatment!

James Rymer thinks it fit and juſt, to embrace this opportunity, to give advice to the medical critic, or, if plural number be required, —— critics, who diſplayed ſuch,—— deep erudition! in the criticiſm upon his book,

1. When he or them, ſhall have occaſion for ſatire, ironny, wit and ridicule, ——to exhibit more convincing proofs of abilities therein, than *ſuch* dull and baſe ſpecimens, as they have unguardly thrown out in the above criticiſm.

2. When it ſhall be neceſſary to determine the merits of any medical work—to proceed in a *methodical* manner, and to be conducted with ſuch principles of the medical ſcience, as the particular work may allude to; that, if he or they, ſhall be conſcious of the inadequateneſs of their talents, to the taſk, *not* to adopt that clowniſh *offiſhneſs* and unlearned-like evaſion too often had recourſe to; and which, I *the rather* take notice of, becauſe it ſo glaringly appears in an *unmanly* and *moſt unſcientific* criticiſm on the work of JAMES RYMER.

FINIS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM